

TIPS

Check the weather before your visit.

The best time to view wildlife is at dawn and dusk when most animals are active.

For the best experience:

- Be as quiet as possible on the trails to improve chances of seeing wildlife.
- Stay on the trail for safety and to protect the Wetlands.
- Do not collect or damage plants, rocks, or other items. Everything has a purpose!
- Do not touch, capture, or injure insects or other animals.
- **Do not feed** animals or leave food scraps behind.
- Never leave litter behind.



Include time in your schedule to visit the Nature Center! Staff and volunteers will gladly answer questions and help identify what you have spotted on your walk.

The Exhibit Hall and Wetlands Park movie offer great opportunities to learn more about plants, animals, and the Las Vegas Wash.

Learn more about discovering nature with your children at www.enature.com.

YOUR WALK

Please be realistic about the distance you plan to go and length of your stay outside. Take time to allow children the opportunity to stop frequently to observe insects, tracks, plants, and animals. The destination is not as important as allowing children a chance to experience the wonder of nature, whether it be the path of a single ant or a soaring Great Blue Heron.

Suggested short routes for families with young children:

ROUTE A: Boardwalk 1/3 mile round trip

Visitors often see turtles, fish, birds, and dragonflies from the accessible viewing platform.

ROUTE B: Island 1/2 mile round trip

Visitors will see evidence of beaver, and often cottontail rabbits and water birds. Part of the route is unpaved.

ROUTE C: Gooding Willow 1/3 mile loop

Leave the paved trail to explore around an ancient, sprawling Gooding Willow near a stream.

ROUTE D: La Petite Academy 1/5 mile loop

This unpaved trail gives early walkers a chance to explore off the beaten path.



EXERCISES

You don't need to be an expert to help your child discover nature!

Plants:

- Ask your child: is it a tree, bush, or grass?
- Look for flowers, seed pods, berries, thorns, and cocoons. (Please leave them where you find them.)
- Do any plants have a distinctive smell?
- Compare the shapes of the leaves of several different plants.
- Compare color(s)/textures of leaves, stems, or bark.



Animals:

- Stop and close your eyes. Ask your child to identify three different animal sounds. Ask your child: do you think they are insects, birds, or mammals?
- As you walk, look for animal tracks. If you find them, ask your child what direction they think the animal was going. Challenge your child to come up with a story explaining what happened.
- Look for animal scat. What can you tell about an animal from its droppings?
- What evidence do you see or hear that tells you animals have been present? (You may see nests, burrows, trees that have been chewed on by beaver, hear rustling in the underbrush, or find a feather.)



WHAT TO BRING


- **Water!** Each visitor should carry drinking water, *children, too!*
- Sturdy closed-toe shoes
- Hat with brim
- Sunglasses
- Long-sleeve shirt
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Camera

SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Binoculars
- Magnifying hand lens
- Guide books to identify plants, birds, and other wildlife

Ask about borrowing a Family Backpack at the Nature Center Exhibit Hall for the use of the above items at no charge.

Share your Wetlands Park stories!

 facebook.com/wetlandspark

Clark County Wetlands Park

7050 Wetlands Park Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89122
(702) 455-7522

Park Hours:

Dawn to Dusk

Nature Center Hours:

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/parks/Pages/wetlands-park.aspx



VISITING WITH KIDS

An aid for parents
with young children
for exploring the
Wetlands Park
Nature Preserve

*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder,
he needs the companionship of at least one adult
who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy,
excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."*

- Rachel Carson